Planning storage space

By SHIRLEY W. WALTON
Extension Agent

Plan Storage Space Wisely

Spring is a good time to take stock of storage needs. Clean out closets, drawers and cabinets. Wash interiors and contents. Repaint where needed and add new shelf and drawer paper on vinyl covering where necessary. Rearrange items for convenient use.

Good news for homemakers

Sort items for storage. Begin by separating items no longer needed. Discard broken or worn out things and donate usable articles to charitable organizations or plan a neighborhood garage sale. Donations should be clean and in good repair. Package items such as games so that parts aren't lost when the game is being handled.

For items to be stored, keep in mind four questions: 1) Who will use it? 2) How often? 3) Where? 4(What kind of storage is required?

The answers will suggest where and how to store the item. The answers can also suggest potential storage convenience. For example, a lower clothes rod can be hung from the regular clothes closet rod. This puts clothing within the reach of a young child or saves space as a slacks or skirt rack, with room above for blouses and shirts.

Sort according to frequency of use. Set up a usage scale ranging from several times daily to daily, weekly, semi-monthly, monthly, seasonal and once-a-season. There sould also be a category for things saved but rarely used, such as mementos, cancelled checks and tax returns.

Moving to another part of the house, we should make sure we carefully put things where they are going to be used. Setting the table is quicker if dishes are stored near the table. However, it may be preferable to store in cabinets near the dishwasher or sink. Pots, pans and spices are needed at the range. Frequency of use again comes into play. Relegate less used items to secondary positions and seldom used things to less accessible storage areas.

If storing items in boxes, label them for easy identification. Duplicating supplies can save time and steps, especially in a large home or a two-story, or multi-level home. For example, a caddy of cleaning needs can be stashed on two floors or in two areas of the home. Likewise, extra towels, soap, paper supplies should be in or near each bathroom. Gather things together used such as sewing supplies, correspondence needs and hobby materials.

Make things easy to use. Store frequently used items where they can be seen, reached, grasped and replaced quickly and easily. One row deep storage is ideal, though not always possible. There are storage accessories available to make the most of space from turn-table devices to cabinet and closet door racks, see-through compartment boxes and wardrobe bags for shoes and handbags. Some of these aids can be made at home or built by someone who is handy with woodworking tools.

Now is the time with spring approaching to reorganize our storage areas in our homes. It is the time of year when all of us like to make sure we get things in good shape before we move outside to do our gardening and other outside chores. If you are interested in information on how to have a place for everything and everything in its place in your home, you may call us at 352-8244 or write us at P. O. Box 488, Appomattox, Va. 24522. We have some excellent publications that are illustrated which will help you achieve the best possible storage in your home.

Have a good-week homemakers!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
Mom's Festive Sweet Potatoes

3 cups cooked mashed sweet potatoes
½ cup sugar
¼ cup milk
⅓ cup margarine
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 eggs beaten
Topping ingredients:
1 cup flaked coconut
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
⅓ cup all purpose flour
⅓ cup margarine, melted
1 cup chopped pecans

Combine cooked, mashed sweet potatoes with sugar, milk, margarine, vanilla extract and beaten eggs. Mix well. Spoon into a lightly greased 8 to 9-inch square baking dish. Combine remaining ingredients for the topping and sprinkle over top of sweet potatoes. Bake 375° for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown. Yield: 8 to 10 servings.

Note: This dish can be prepared the day before and refrigerated and baked just before serving. It also can be easily doubled for a big company meal. Many thanks to my mother, Mrs. Philip Williams, for sharing this delicious recipe with us.

ASCS Today

Big leaf crop likely

By TOM CONRAD

Larger Tobacco Crop Likely; Use May Stabilize - A further recovery of yields and acreage at the 1980 level could increase this year's U. S. tobacco crop about 6 percent above last year's 1.8 billion pounds. A larger crop would offset smaller beginning stocks and keep the 1981/82 tobacco supply about the same as this season.

Effective farm quotas for 1980 are down 6 percent for flue-cured and up 11 percent for burley. The quotas suggest that U.S. tobacco growers may keep this year's plantings about the same as the 916,000 acres harvested in 1980.

Because of increased prices for fuel and labor, production costs may rise as much as 15 percent from last season.

Price support for eligible tobacco will be about 12 percent higher than last year because of the formula that reflects changes in prices farmers pay. USDA will likely announce grade loan rates for the various kinds of tobacco before the marketing season begins.

Despite a larger 1980 crop, smaller carryin stocks pulled this season's domestic leaf supply down to 5.04 billion pounds, 2 percent below the previous year. Total use of U. S. tobacco should remain close to 1980; however, by the end of the marketing year all tobacco carryover stocks will still be down.

On Janury 1, stocks were slightly below a year earlier. By end of this marketing year (July 1 for flue-cured, October 1 for burley and other kinds), stocks should total about 2 percent below the 3.27 billion pound carryin.

Last year's cigarette output, a record 714 billon cigarettes, increased 1 percent above 1979. Both domestic use and tax-exempt categories gained. Also consumption of smokeless tobacco products (chewing tobacco and snuff) grew again in 1980. Use of both smoking tobacco and cigars fell below a year earlier; another drop is expected this year.

U. S. smokers consumed 630 billion cigarettes last year, about 1½ percent above the previous year. Consumption per adult remained about the same as 1979–196 packs. Total cigarette use may remain steady this year, as increasing population offsets reduced per capita use.

Exports of U. S. tobacco leaf and products increased 13 percent in value last year to a record $2.43 billion. Both manufactured tobacco exports and leaf exports rose in price and volume. Export weight of unmanufactured tobacco totaled 599 million pounds (272,000 metric tons) or 721 million pounds, farm sales weight. This year, exports will do well to maintain last year's level; because export grades of U. S. tobacco are in short supply.

Unmanufactured tobacco imports (duty paid) and the customs category 170.80 (tobacco manufactured or not manufactured, not specifically provided for) increased 4 percent to 394 million pounds (179,000 metric tons) last year. Cigarette leaf and stems accounted for the gain. Imports have risen in recent years, last year representing about three-tenths of the tobacco used in U. S. cigarette production. A similar proportion is likely this year. The International Trade Commission is investigating the need for import restrictions on tobacco and will hold a public hearing on May 11.

Flue-cured tobacco disappearance in the current marketing year will probably drop from last year's 1.08 billion pounds. Both exports and domestic use may decline slightly. With the larger 1980 crop, mid-year carryover may rise about 1 percent from last season's 1.96 billion pounds. Production this year should drop slightly from last year's 1,085 million pounds, assuming the crop is average size in relation to the effective quota.

With first-quarter use stabilizing, this season's total disappearance of burley tobacco may change little from last year's 632 million pounds. Auction sales, ending in early March, indicated a 1980 crop of about 595 million pounds, up 109 million from 1979's unusually short crop. Burley carryover next October 1 is expected to drop 8 percent below a year earlier.

USDA SET THIS season's burley marketing quota at 661 million pounds, 7.5 percent above last year. The farm quota, which reflects 1980's undermarketings, totals about 850 million pounds. 80 million pounds above last season's effective quota. Burley production is expected to increase.

Acreage allotments for Virginia fire-cured, dark air-cured, cigar binder, and Ohio cigar filler are the same as last year. Kentucky-Tennessee fire-cured allotments were reduced 5 percent. Each type registered price increases for the 1980 crop.

Copies of the Tobacco Situation (TS-175) will be available in a week to 10 days. For further information, contact Robert H. Miller at (202) 447-8776.

Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK H. SWEET
Extension Agent

Congratulations to all those 4-H'ers who took part in Saturday's 4-H Demonstration - Illustrated Talk Contest. Winners in the various categories will represent Appomattox County in an area Demonstration- Illustrated Talk program in Rustburg on April 11. 4-H'ers from Campbell, Bedford, Amherst, Halifax, and the city of Lynchburg will also participate in the area contest.

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Several civic clubs have already provided funds for 4-H Camp scholarships for this coming summer. 4-H Camp scholarships provide financial assistance for many young people to attend camp who otherwise may not be able to participate. A 4-H Camp scholarship is an investment in young people.

* * *

The June is Dairy Month Poster Contest will again be held with the 1981 theme being "The Magic of Milk." Posters will be due by the end of May and should be on half size (14" x 22") sheets of poster paper. 4-H'ers may use cut-outs, pictures or original drawings. Ribbons will be awarded to each 4-H'er who enters a poster in the contest.

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Information pamphlets are now available on the 4-H Swine Field Day scheduled for the Five County Fairgrounds in Farmville on May 23. 4-H'ers interested in Market Hog projects are invited to participate in this special workshop. Details are available from the Extension Office.

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Ten 4-H'ers are practicing for the new Forestry Judging Program. In forestry judging, young people learn to identify trees, estimate timber volume, use a compass, pace correctly, make management decisions, and learn about important forest insects. 4-H'ers working on the program are Glen McCleney, Blair Smith, Richard Conner, Dale Glover, Rick Pack, Nancy Cole, Lisa Harrison, Anne Hancock, Jo Ann Jamerson, and April Archer.

* * *

David Caldwell travels to National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. next week as one of six Virginia 4-H'ers to participate in the event. David's trip is the result of his work in 4-H over a nine-year period. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Caldwell and is currently a freshman at James Madison University.

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